

tion and its county units should make an effort to look through the Del Monte session proceedings as printed in this issue. If that is done, organization work during the coming year will receive a real impetus because of the greater cooperative interest and efforts of a larger number of its members.

DR. HOLMAN OF STANFORD IS AWARDED THE SAMUEL D. GROSS PRIZE

A Middle-West Group of Nineteenth Century Physicians.—From the Ohio valley, especially from the Cincinnati and Louisville medical schools, in the early days of the nineteenth century went forth a notable group of physician teachers and leaders. Included among such were Daniel Drake, the elder and the younger Gross, Bartholow and others, who not only left a deep impress upon the medical thought of their period, but whose high standards of research and service still exert an influence on modern-day practice. Philadelphia, home of one of America's pioneer physicians—Dr. Benjamin Rush, he who was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence by the Colonies—still honors the memory of Samuel D. Gross by a prize which is awarded every five years through the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery for

"the best original essay, not exceeding one hundred and fifty printed pages, octavo, in length, illustrative of some subject in surgical pathology or surgical practice founded upon original investigations, the candidates for the prize to be American citizens."

"It is expressly stipulated that the competitor who receives the prize shall publish his essay in book form, and that he shall deposit one copy of the work in the Samuel D. Gross Library of the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery, and that on the title page it shall be stated that to the essay was awarded the Samuel D. Gross Prize of the Philadelphia Academy of Surgery."

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Doctor Holman's Essay on "Abnormal Arteriovenous Communications."—Californians may be proud in the knowledge that the 1930 award of the Samuel D. Gross Prize of \$1500 was awarded to a California Medical Association colleague—Dr. Emile Holman, whose work in the Stanford University Hospital has long been well known in this state. Doctor Holman's essay was entitled "Abnormal Arteriovenous Communications." It deals with the effects upon circulation of the blood of unusual openings between the large arteries and veins produced by gunshot wounds, knife thrusts, and congenital abnormalities of development.

CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE takes pleasure in calling attention to this recently announced award. On behalf of his colleagues in California, CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE extends congratulations to Doctor Holman on this honor which he has brought to himself and to the medical profession of the Golden State. May his good example be emulated by others so that, in the passing of the years, the record of California in research studies may be such as to compare

favorably with that of other states and countries; and also be of the kind one has a right to expect from the physicians of a commonwealth where the joy of living and service is cast in as exceptional surroundings as exist in California.

Cerebrospinal Meningitis.—In the one hundred and twenty-three years since cerebrospinal meningitis first swept "like a flood of mighty waters, bringing along with it the horrors of a most dreadful plague" into the little town of Goshen, Connecticut, where Dr. Elisha North was in practice, many observers have noted the variable death rate of the disease. In reading North's book, "A Treatise on a Malignant Epidemic, Commonly Called Spotted Fever, etc.," New York, 1811, which was the first publication on cerebrospinal meningitis, we are astounded at the success with which this Connecticut doctor attended his patients, for out of about two hundred he lost only two. This record set by North has never been surpassed, and certainly today a physician whose mortality rate is under 50 per cent considers himself a most successful practitioner. In a series of cases treated at one of our metropolitan hospitals in the last few years, the death rate was about that figure. Prior to the introduction of serum the mortality rates in the country, as a whole, were about 75 per cent, and during the World War it was not uncommon for a physician to lose one-half of his patients when the disease broke out in an Army camp or hospital. On the other hand, during certain epidemics the mortality has been remarkably low, and we presume that this must have been the case during the Connecticut epidemic of 1807-1811 described so vividly by North. That there is such a wide variation in the mortality of patients with this disease is one of the outstanding features of its epidemiology.—*The New England Journal of Medicine*, April 10, 1930.

State Fund's New Method of Paying Dividends.—

1. Since the doors of the State Compensation Insurance Fund were opened on January 2, 1914, the large sum of over \$17,500,000 has been returned in the form of dividends to employers in California. This is one of the main reasons why employers patronize the State Fund in increasing numbers. While the rates charged for compensation coverage have to be the same as the charges of the private companies, under the law, the cost of administering the State Fund is low and this enables the returns to be made to California's employers. Incidentally, the premiums received pay all costs, and the state treasury does not contribute money to the Fund's upkeep.

2. There are employers who fail to recognize the truth that they are important factors in setting the compensation premiums. The latter are based on the industrial deaths and injuries. The reductions in accidents to workers mean lower premiums. Those industries with comparatively few injuries pay low premiums. There is need to emphasize this truism, because it shows the financial values in preventing accidents, and the lower the premium the smaller the cost that has to be charged to consumers.

3. The dividends now payable to employers by the State Compensation Insurance Fund will be distributed on the basis of accident experience. This will give an added impetus to safety activities, because the loss ratio of policyholders will be taken into consideration. This new plan gives a larger reward to those employers who have helped produce the surplus earnings out of which dividends are paid.—*California Department of Industrial Relations. Report to Governor's Council.*